

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN APRIL 2006

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in April was 2.57 million metric tons (Mt), which was the same as in March according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Total production for January to April was 20% lower than in the same period in 2005.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in April was 2.57 Mt, an 8% increase over that of March. Total sold or used for January to April was 18% lower than in the same period of 2005. U.S. producer stocks were slightly higher than in March.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and data from the Moroccan producer, because Census suppressed some phosphate rock import data for Morocco. The Moroccan producer supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported by the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month. The USGS estimated that imports of phosphate rock averaged about 157,000 metric tons per month in 2006.

Apparent consumption for 2006 was estimated to be 31.9 Mt. using annualized sold or use data, plus estimated imports. Domestic apparent consumption for 2005 was 37.8 Mt, a slight

decrease from that of 2004. Apparent consumption was based on sold or used data, plus imports minus exports.

The Mosaic Company announced the closure of its Fort Green phosphate rock mine, and the Green Bay and South Pierce phosphate processing plants in central Florida. The mine had an annual production capacity of 4.9 Mt per year, but it had higher production costs because of its distance from the processing plant and shipping facilities. Mosaic expects to mine the remaining reserves through one of its other mines. The Green Bay Plant manufactured phosphoric acid, diammonium phosphate (DAP), and monoammonium phosphate (MAP). It had been operating at about 50% capacity for several months. The South Pierce plant produced phosphoric acid and triple super-phosphate. To offset some of the lost capacity, Mosaic will resume production of DAP and MAP at its Louisiana facilities (Green Markets, 2006).

Reference Cited

Green Markets, 2006, Mosaic to close 2 plants, and a mine in central Florida: Green Markets, v. 30, no. 19, May 8, p. 1, 11.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2005:			
January-April	12,100	12,000	XX
April	3,000	3,160	5,850
May	3,480	3,050	6,270
June	3,100	2,810	6,560
July	3,230	3,210	6,580
August	3,340	3,190	6,660
September	3,250	2,940	7,040
October	2,850	2,670	7,280
November	2,490	2,730	7,000
December	2,380	2,580	6,780
January-December	36,200	35,200	XX
2006:			
January	2,520	2,670	6,620
February	1,970	2,230	6,370
March	2,570	2,370	6,500
April	2,570	2,570	6,540
Total	9,620	9,840	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value ²
2005:		
January	140	5,160
February	143	6,190
March	48	1,300
April	183	8,440
May	227	11,000
June	184	8,420
July	103	4,840
August	66	1,810
September	158	5,520
October	159	6,290
November	195	7,200
December	112	4,120
January-December	1,720	70,300
Total year ³	2,630	107,000
2006: ⁴		
January	170	7,100
February	74	2,180
March	193	9,460
Total	437	18,700

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005	2006 ^{e, 2}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.3	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.4	W	W
Total	35.7	36.2	29.3
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.8	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.0	W	W
Total	35.8	35.2	29.9
Yearend stocks	7.0	6.8	6.5
Exports reported by producers	--	--	--
Average value per ton	--	--	--
Imports for consumption ^e	2.5	2.6	2.0
Average value per ton	\$36.50	\$40.87	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 3}	38.3	37.8	31.9

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

²Annualized data.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.